



AiM Webinar
"Smartycam Best Practices"
4.16.20
Edited Q&A

Q: When do you expect RS3 Analysis to be released?

A: A beta version will be available in May. Keep in mind support may be limited for beta software.

Q: What is the best memory card to use with the Smarty Cam? 32GB, 64GB, 96GB? Are there any limitations using bigger memory cards?

A: [Answered live]

Q: Compare race render / Go Pro to Smartycam

A1: [Answered live]

A2: In general, SmartyCam is real-time and requires no post processing - get out of the car, play the video. RaceRender/GoPro is all post process. You'll also see the video data integration coming with RS3 Analysis during this webinar.

Q: I have the track map set in my configuration, but it does not show up when I play back.

A: This is a valid question but has a lot of variables and is better handled on a case by case basis. If you need help with this feel free to contact us at 800.718.9090 or support@aimsports.com.

Q: Using EVO4 with MyChron3 and SmartyCAM on a Formula Vee. The EVO4 is recording Brake pressure, throttle position and RPM, but I cannot seem to get the data to show on the SmartyCAM display. I have the appropriate gages on the display but other than speed, I do not get any of the other data, just dead gages. It is as if only the internal GPS is working in my case.

A: [Answered live]

Q: Is there any plan to allow picture-in-picture with 2 Smartcams? GP and HD or whatever the mix. A lot of race series are asking for front and rear cameras now and the ability to see both would be great. I have set up a car with a front Smartycam HD 2.1 and a rear Smartycam GP which link together to get CAN data but would love to be able to have a picture-in-picture view of front and rear.

A: We are working on a new hardware solution that will have this feature available.

Q: Can regular Solo work with Smartycam or only DL version?

A: Only the DL.

Q: Will the next release of SW allow us to group video, GPS, and the remaining telemetry information?

A1: We will be discussing this today.

A2: [Answered live]

Q: Any plans to support 1080p 60fps in future SmartyCam HD models?

A: Yes.

Q: For 1080p 60fps in future models, any idea when we might expect to see those being available at AIM Dealers?

A: We do not have a release date for forthcoming SmartyCams. Current COVID-19 conditions make this even more difficult.

Q: Have these been used on motorcycles? If so, does it help?

A: SmartyCams are very useful on bikes. The lean angle is a bit tough, but other metrics are very informative.

Q: What you said about track position and attack angle on any corner is really crucial to me - and you can only see it in video. However, I want to be able to see the corresponding data from my Solo2 DL along with the video. When I bought my AiM hardware (Solo2 DL and Smartycam 2.1) I thought they will be synced in the Race Studio Analysis app, but that is not the case. The test video will just start from the beginning, even though my data is on a given lap (lap 7 for example). Peter, you mentioned in Facebook that there is something that you want to share regarding this. I'm very eager to learn everything about it.

A: We will be showing the next evolution of the software today so stay tuned, these topics are going to be shown today!

Q: I currently have a Solo DL but want to upgrade to MXS w/ SmartyCam. Will I need a bridge?

A: You would want to get rid of the Solo DL and replace that with the MXS 1.2, no bridge necessary.

Q: Does it have to be an MXS 1.2?

A: No. That's the newest version of product that we have available. You could definitely get an MXS on the used market.

Q: Is there a good mount for a bullet camera in a formula car. The vibration seems to loosen most mounts I have tried. I have a pretty rigid mount but it transmits more vibration. I like to mount to a roll bar hoop.

A: A great mount is the v-mount with the ring mount for the bullet cam.

Q: Is there anything more robust to mount the cam than the RAM mounts? I've had several fail on my Formula Ford.

A: All of our cameras have 1/4 20 mounting which is a common camera mount type. this allows you to use most any camera mount available on the market.

Q: What are the specific/real SD card requirements?

A: 128gb (max) and class 10. I like to use SanDisk Ultra.

Q: Actually, I was looking for the speed rating that is recommended.

A: I recommend the fastest available. UHF3 or class 10 are acceptable benchmarks.

Q: Which lens angles would you suggest for different applications?

A: The smaller the field of view, the more accurate the video representation will be. 67 degree will produce less "bend" in the video. The larger FOV the more bending of video and can skew the appearance of hard angles. For example: at 120 FOV a 90* turn will look more like a 70* turn in the video, leaving the user to think they have more room to get on the gas.

A: [Answered live]

Q: Any issues with 128G class 10 cards from major manufacturers?

A: You should be fine. 128G is the max though.

Q: Will the Mychron5 support the SmartyCam?

A: Yes.

Q: Can all the settings that are configured on the SmartyCam be done directly through Race Studio?

A: The overlay, is set up on RS3. Most of the other settings are done in the menus on the Smartycam itself.

Q: With an auto record start at 30mph, will the camera continue to record during say a spin/stop/get going again?

A: That will depend on the auto stop delay you have selected and how long it takes you to get back up to 30mph.

A: This is defined by the stop recording settings. Leaving it to record for 5 min will give you a bit of buffer to get going again.

Q:Is there any issue if the driver simply chops power to the car. Does the card know how to close the file?

A:It has a on board battery that will allow the hardware to properly close the video in the event of loss of power.

Q: What are the best video editing software choices?

A:[Answered live]

Q: Are settings stored in the camera or on the SD card?

A: Settings are stored in the camera, however, if you're updating FW or loading a new config. you will need to have an SD card inserted.

Q: With the SmartyCam GP, is the accelerometer in the camera or recorder?

A: It's in the bullet cam.

Q: What kind of mounting bracket did he use on the kart?

A: I am unsure but if it was supplied by us the hardware would have been a standard V bracket with a long arm.

Q: How do I get support to learn to pull more data out of my SmartyCam and into RS3?

A: You can always reach out to AiM to better help navigate software. Also, the dealer you purchased the hardware from should have valuable insight to offer as well.

Q: Can you calibrate the accelerometers from the SmartyCam console or does a computer need to be connected?

A: You can do it either way.

Q: Can a SmartyCam be used alone- does it record the same measures as a Solo or does it require something like a Solo DL in order to marry video and GPS based measures?

A: You can connect a GPS module to get the GPS data that would normally come from the Solo DL. However, there is no way to integrate the Solo to the camera, it requires a Solo DL.

A: It can be used stand alone and you can use the accelerometers for a calculated throttle and brake. Any other channels will have to have some input from a Solo DL or other product.

Q: Can you add last lap or best lap to the overlay from the camera or only through Race Studio 3?

A: Only from software can you manage the overlay objects.

Q: How is the brake pressure bar calibrated? Can we set what "lock" would be?

A: Yes, you choose the maximum pressure you want for the brake bar.

Q: Do the brake and throttle bars in the SmartyCam video reflect the ranges defined for those measures in Analysis?

A: They come from the hardware directly and do not reflect the analysis settings. You can adjust the visual objects to show any range 0-100 or 20-80 and any other mixture can be assigned to the overlay using the RS3 software.

Q: Everything so far is showing a bit of data on a full screen video; will you be showing how to integrate a small video screen into an RS2 screen instead?

A: Stay tuned we will be discussing this shortly. [Answered live]

Q: Is it possible to preload 2 or 3 tracks in the Smarty Cam?

A: You can preload hundreds.

Q: If I put in a new SD card, what do I lose or have to re-setup?

A: Any video will be lost but all settings are contained within the hardware and not altered.

Q: Can you discuss how to include the video in the analysis software?

A: We will be discussing this shortly. [Answered live]

Q: How long will the SmartyCam battery last when running stand alone?

A: That's very dependent upon which SmartyCam you have. The best idea is to always run external power.

Q: Is it possible to use multiple cameras and merge the videos?

A: Yes, but we don't have the software available to merge them.

Q: Can I use SmartyCam as a stand-alone unit with GPS hooks up to it?

A: Yes, external power is going to be a best practice along with that.

Q: Is brake pressure configured for both front and rear or just front ?

A: You can choose which data channel is used for the video overlay .

Q: Is there a way to sync video and data?

A: We'll be going over that in just a few moments! [Answered live]

Q: Does a SmartyCam work well with a MyChron5 on a road race kart?

A: Yes, absolutely!

Q: Are the placement of the overlay icons on the SmartyCam controlled from the software only?

A: Yes. [Answered live]

Q: Is there a program that can fix FOF video files?

A: Check out the software for .FOF fix available on our website. <http://www.aimsports.com/en/documentation-faqs.htm>

A: [Answered live]

Q: As a coach, do you go to camera first or data first?

A: [Answered live]

Q: After a session, do I just remove the SD card for video and data [overlay] or do I still need to download data via USB?

A: Just remove the SD card and play.

Q: Gear # seems to have a problem showing correctly on the video. It works ok in downloaded data. Any suggestions?

A: It is a function that must be set manually using SmartyCam stream settings.

Q: Is AIM working on a device that would allow live streaming of the SmartyCam video?

A: It's something that has been talked about but no concrete plans at this time.

Q: I have had a SmartyCam start recording at the beginning of the session but when we come in at the end there isn't a video file on the SD card. You can see in the log file the camera recorded video according to the log but all videos on the card are gone. Is this usually a sign of a bad card or something with the firmware of the camera?

A: Yes, I would say both of those things are exactly where I would start.

Q: Is the metadata imbedded in the video file (speed, position, etc.) or does it reside in a sidecar.

A: Embedded

Q: Any motorcycle specific cam tips?

A: Point the camera at your feet for one session to see how you transfer weight. It changed my perspective for sure!

Q: I am using an MXS, if I add a SmartyCam, will I then need to use both RS2 and RS3?

A: RS3 manages both of those units.

Q: Where do I find instructions?

A: http://aimsports.com/download/doc/eng/smartycam_hd_gphd_rev2.1/SmartyCam_HD_GPHD_rev2.1_user_guide_102_eng.pdf

Q: I see that RS3 is still showing time/distance. Will this be how each lap is (so still stretching, etc. to match them) or is this going to be GPS positionally based for each lap being compared?

A: It will be modified with respect to GPS position.

Q: Is RS3 Analysis going to require a significant amount of CPU/GPU power to simultaneously process multiple videos on screen?

A: It will not require a gaming computer, but it certainly wouldn't hurt to have more GPU capabilities.

Q: Is the MXL+SCHD going to be supported in RS3?

A: No. The MXL uses RS2

Q: How does video get integrated properly with data? (time stamps, etc.)

A: Metadata, time stamps, and GPS location are all factors in linking video and data.

Q: Is RS3 Analysis mainly for smarty cam?

A: It will be for all RS3 devices.

Q: What is the best way to setup brake pressure for SmartyCam if you do not get it from the ECU? What channel should be used?

A: You can use the longitudinal accelerometer channel as a substitute.

A: If you are using the SmartyCam in conjunction with a logger that is capable of analog inputs you can add a brake pressure sensor. Then configure the channel for the correct sensor and then setup your SmartyCam functions settings.

Q: I didn't quite follow Emiliano's answer; which older loggers/dashes will RS3 Analysis be compatible with?

A: Current generation loggers (MXS 1.2, MXP, MXG 1.2, MXm, Solo2 DL) and I believe all the HD SmartyCams.

Q: If you have SmartyCam by itself (no sensors) is it possible to get brake pressure from longitude accelerometer or another built in channel on the unit itself? My ECU doesn't support brake pressure.

A: All cameras have on board accelerometers and they can be used to interpret braking in the video overlay.

Q: Will the older Solo DL be compatible with RS3 Analysis? Is it compatible with newest SmartyCam?

A: The Solo DL (original) is compatible with the cameras but will not be compatible with RS3 and its analysis features.